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**United States Patent** [19]

Shah et al.

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[54] **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR DETERMINING THE STATUS OF DATA BUFFERS IN A BRIDGE BETWEEN TWO BUSES DURING A FLUSH OPERATION**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** 395/306; 395/309; 395/872; 395/878; 370/85.13

[58] **Field of Search** 395/325, 306, 395/309, 872, 879, 878; 370/85.13

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23 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets

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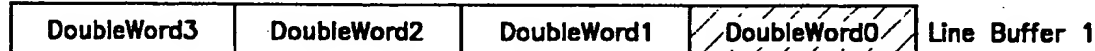
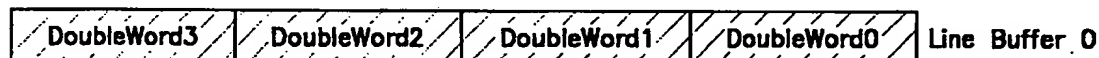
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A bridge circuit adapted to be associated with first and second bus circuits which bridge circuit includes a first path including a plurality of buffers for storing data or addresses being transferred from the second bus to the first bus, a circuit arrangement for detecting that an interrupt of a presenting-running operation has occurred, a circuit arrangement for determining the state of the plurality of buffers when an interrupt occurs, and apparatus for flushing only those buffers of the plurality which were storing data for transfer when the interrupt occurred.



 empty

 filled before APIC interrupt received

 filled after APIC interrupt received



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(12) **United States Patent**  
**Bashford**

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(54) **MESSAGE SIALED INTERRUPT  
 GENERATING DEVICE AND METHOD**

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(51) Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> ..... **G06F 13/24**

(52) U.S. Cl. .... **710/260; 710/112; 710/306**

(58) Field of Search ..... **710/36, 306, 305,  
 710/260-266, 311, 314, 312, 310**

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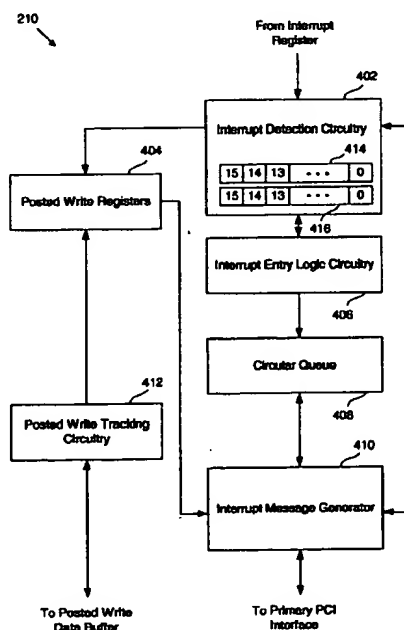
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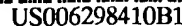
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention provides a bridge device and a method for generating message signaled interrupts to indicate completion of write transactions from one or more secondary bus devices to a primary bus device. The bridge device is coupled between a first bus and a second bus. The one or more secondary bus devices are coupled to the second bus and the primary bus device is coupled to the first bus. The bridge device includes a bridge FIFO and control circuitry, a first register, and an interrupt generation logic. The bridge FIFO and control circuitry is arranged to control data transfer between the one or more secondary bus devices and the primary bus device. The bridge FIFO and control circuitry is further configured to store and transfer write data from the one or more secondary bus devices to the primary bus device. The first register is arranged to store a set of interrupt bit numbers. Each of the one or more secondary bus devices is configured to write an interrupt bit number into the first register after completion of a write data transfer to the bridge FIFO and control circuitry to indicate completion of the write data transfer. The interrupt generation logic is coupled to the bridge FIFO and control circuitry and the first register, and is arranged to generate message signaled interrupts in response to the writing of the interrupt bit numbers. In this configuration, the interrupt generation logic generates the message signaled interrupts in the order the write data transfers are posted to the first bus. In addition, each of the message signaled interrupts is generated and posted after all write data transfers associated with the interrupt bit number have been posted to the first bus.

**29 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets**





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(45) **Date of Patent:** \*Oct. 2, 2001

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An apparatus and method for controlling interrupts in a computer are disclosed, in which programmable software operates to control when data concerning the interrupt having highest priority is to be provided, and hardware logic operates to control how that data is provided. An interrupt vector register is included in the computer CPU. The interrupt vector register does not act like the typical register. It is not a physical register, and cannot be written to. A read to this register by the programmable software, triggers the hardware logic. Once triggered, this logic performs certain control tasks, the end result of which is returning to the programmable software, a vector corresponding to the interrupt having highest priority. The programmable software can implement various software policies, in addition to the hardware policy implemented by the hardware logic.

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**22 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets**

